this article and trust that no such instructions will be issued, for the settlement of estates of foreign citizens dying in Turkey is now difficult enough. In the event of entire jurisdiction being taken from the Consular Officers no settlement will ever be reached until all the property is in the hands of Turkish officials.

One personal allusion in Atty Klingenstein letter which touches my private and official honesty I cannot pass without notice were you acquainted with the man who made it. Inferring, however, that you know him only by his correspondance you may attach some weight to his assertion. In the middle of page 2 of his letter of June 17th '96 he says; "It is unfair to permit him [me] to use this money when it rightfully belongs to my clients" All I wish to say in reply is that the whole amount of money from the estate of Sibiah Hactigall is now, and since the day it was deposited in this Consulate, has been in condition to be paid on call - immediately - to any one having a legal, unconditional right to it.

Should you authorize or instruct me to forward it to the Hactigall heirs in America I shall certainly do so. Should you instruct me to send the entire amount without deducting necessary expenses I shall certainly and instantly obey instructions but in doing so all hope of the American heirs to any share in the realty is lost as I shall certainly never advance anything to the estate, nor will the widow Hactigall who will be in undisputed control so long as she lives.

I am Sir
Your obedient Servant
E. S. Ewing

Consulate of the United States
Jerusalem, Palestine Aug. 5th
1896

Hon. W. W. Rockhill
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir: —

In reply to Department Circular of March 19th 1896 I have the honor to submit the following report:

I Place.

Jerusalem the Capital of the province of Palestine, is a city of 50,000 inhabitants. of this number 38,000 are Jews and the rest are about equally divided among Moslems and Christians. The industries of the place are very few and carried on in a most primitive manner.

The manufacturing of articles of piety is the leading industry. These consist of Crucifixes, rosaries and memorials emblems of the Holy Places and are usually made of olive-wood and Mother-of-pearl.

The trade of Palestine with the United States is very small and will continue to be so while the present freight rates - which kill all competition - are charged.

The main articles exported to the United States are articles made of olive-wood and mother-of-pearl. During the year 1896 consignments of these goods to the value of $13135.00 were made.

The climate of the country is very similar to that of our own state of California and

on the higher mountain range that extends from north to south is pleasant the entire year. There are two plainly marked seasons, the wet & dry - the former prevailing during the months from November to April inclusive. During the summer months, from May to October inclusive it is the rare exception for a drop of rain to fall. There is a popular mistake about the summer climate of Palestine, viz: that the heat is so oppressive as to be almost unbearable. On the contrary, with less effort and with none of the modern artificial methods of keeping cool. The thermometer seldom reach 95° in the shade even in midsummer.

Of Resident Americans there are about 550. Exact statistics cannot be given because of the failure of many Jewish citizens to register their names in the Consulate. Of the entire number 550 - four hundred and fifty are Jews who have but little idea of duties or obligations of citizenship. The failure to register is also true of the Spafford Colony a religious community now numbering nearly a hundred. This neglect often hinders seriously the proper and expedient transaction of Consular business.

Duties

The duties of the Consul here are commercially considered - very few, owing to the small trade carried on between the United States and this part of the world. The greater part of the business is concerned with the protection of American interests. As the Consulate exercises the right of extra territoriality the judicial functions

are frequently employed, as, unfortunately our resident Jewish-citizens are frequently in trouble with the local Turkish authorities. Also the estates of citizens dying in the Consular district are settled by the Consul if the deceased left no will. Where a will is found the Consul is frequently called upon to assist in carrying out the provisions thereof.

The published office hours at this Consulate are from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. though the office is at no time of the day from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. without one or more of its officers in attendance. I am myself nearly always in the office from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

To measure the volume of business is a difficult matter owing to the varied nature of it. It cannot be expressed in financial terms, as a reference to our quarterly accounts will show. It is time consuming as in Turkey it is almost impossible to have people with whom business of any kind is to be done appreciate the value of time. A policy of delay prevails in all branches in which the local government has a part and any plan to hurry the transaction but defeats itself. For example, the settling of an estate in which there is any real property requires the writing of many letters to the local authorities and in many instances personal visitation to the Pasha on the part of the Consul.

3 Offices

The location of the Consulate is in the pleasantest and healthiest part of the city, about a half a mile outside the old north wall. The Consulates of the other Powers are all in the same locality. The offices are on the ground floor of a two storey building and consist of four rooms, three of which are in constant use while the fourth is utilized as a general store room. A fifth room is used as a sleeping room for the Consular guards one of whom remains on duty every night.

The furniture of the Consulate is nearly all new having been added during the past year. There is a book-case, two new office desks, two cupboards one used for stationary the other for filing Consular Reports; also a closet for flags, and uniforms of the guards. Besides these are three revolving office chairs, a divan eight ordinary chairs. From the point of equipment the Consulate is now in much better condition than it ever has been.

The archives are in good condition and no difficulty is met with in referring to any of the records.

The United States Consulate was first opened in Jerusalem

on March 25th 1837, the first Consul being J. Warren Gorham Esq.
The first serious business to claim the new Consuls attention was an attack made by Arab marauders upon the house of an American citizen residing in Jaffa on Jan. 11th 1858. Then as now it was difficult to bring such criminals to justice. It was not until the arrival at Jaffa of the U.S. S.S. "Wabash" that conviction was secured. Then as now force was the only factor that affected the Turkish officials.

Wm. R. Page was the second Consul having assumed the duties of the post on Sept 15th 1860.

The third was Franklin Alcott who entered upon his duties Nov. 21st 1861. The fourth Consul was Albert Rhodes Esq. who took charge on Dec. 24, 1863.

Victor Beaubouchet Esq was the next incumbent. It was during his term - Sept 22, 1866 that the ill-starred Adams Colony reached Jaffa. This company of families and individuals were deluded by one J. J. Adams into coming from Maine U.S.A. and settling in Palestine. Page after page of the record book called "Letters to the Department of State" is taken up with the records of this deluded people whom our government had to rescue from starvation and finally assist many to return to their former homes in the U. States.

In 1870 on April 30th Richard Beardsley - the sixth Consul took charge.

In 1873 on Dec 17th Frank de Hass Esq assumed the office

On Oct 1st 1877. J. G. Wilson Esq, took charge and remained as Consul until July 1st 1882. When Selah Merrill took possession, who in turn gave place to Henry Gilman Esq. Selah Merrill was reappointed under President Harrison and remained until Jan. 15, 1894, when the present incumbent Edwin S. Wallace assumed the office. An examination of the Consular Records reveals nothing specially noteworthy as history, or any facts that, in my opinion, would add to the useful information of the State Department.

4 Officers

Edwin S. Wallace, U.S. Consul at Jerusalem, was born Oct 3rd 1864 in Butler Co. Penna. When he was five years of age his parents removed to Allegheny City, Penna, where he was given the benefits of a common school

education until the age of fourteen when he entered the preparatory Department of the Western University of Penna. At the age of seventeen he went to Washington and Jefferson College and graduated in 1885. with the Bachelors degree. He then entered Princeton Theological Seminary finishing the course there and at the same time studying in Princeton College for the Masters degree which he received in 1888. Before being appointed to the office of Consul at Jerusalem, Mr Wallace was a Presbyterian Minister at Aberdeen S.D. for five years.

Mr. Wallace was appointed U.S. Consul to Sivas on Sept 28, 1893, but was transferred to Jerusalem on Oct 10, 1893

Herbert E. Clark, vice Consul at Jerusalem was born in New Hampshire July 20, 1857 came to Jaffa Palestine in 1866 in the unfortunate Adams Colony. Was a tourist conductor and finally manager for Thos. Cook and son of London, and now the Eastern representative of Frank Clark of 111 Broadway, New York. Mr Clark is a thorough American and was appointed to the honorary position of vice-Consul in 1889, and has filled the position with honor to himself and credit to the Government ever since

Antoine Thomas Gelat, interpreter for the Consulate, is a native of Jerusalem, educated in the French Schools here, During a residence in England for twelve years as representative of a Jerusalem firm he became proficient in English. Previous to his appointment to the Consular position Mr Gelat was manager of the Grand New Hotel at Jerusalem, He is now forty two years of age.

David Feinstein was born in London England, came to Jerusalem at ten years of age; is now forty six years of age. He is clerk in the Consulate and interpreter for Jewish matters. Common English education and ecclesiastical Hebrew. Was appointed to present position in 1883. Was a Orth Merchant and still continues so. A Hebrew by birth.

Assad Kassas, Consular guard of this Consulate for twenty five years; age 49, fairly good Arabic education being able to read and write his own language. Nationality - Syrian Arab.

Mohammed Abbas. Consular Guard for the past eight years - no education; thirty seven years of age. Syrian Arab

Jaffa Consular Agency

Jaffa is a city of 30000 inhabitants, two thirds of whom are Moslems and the remaining one third about equally divided between Jews and Christians. There has been a city on the site of Jaffa from time immemorial, due to its commanding position. It is now the only port of Entry for Palestine proper, but its small rock protection harbor is totally inadequate for modern merchant vessels. The place is growing in size and importance because of the increased production and export of the justly celebrated Jaffa orange which has become

a great favorite in the markets of Europe. The opening of the Jaffa Jerusalem railway in 1893 has given an impetus to the place. The climate of Jaffa is mild the year round - the temperature of summer being from 75° to 95° Fahr. and of winter from 40° to 70°. In general our commerce is carried on between Jaffa and the United States. Once in two or three years the Declared Exports say show an invoice of oranges or wool worth $100 or $300. Usual of exports are oranges, bitumen, olive oil, sesame seed, wine, some cereals and a little soap. Commercial statistics being forbidden in Turkey the following figures are only approximate:

Total Imports for 1895 for all Palestine amounted to $1,479,000, Total exports for 1895 $794,000.

Great trade depression exists just now.

2, **Duties.** There are seventy two registered citizens, most Hebrews living in Jaffa and neighboring colonies. Protection of the Americans, who are nominal Americans only, is the chief duty as there is constantly some friction between them and the local authorities. American tourists often require assistance. Office hours are from 9 A. M. to 12 P.M. and from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.

3, **Office.** "The most attractive feature of this Consular post, bringing neither salary nor fees, will be to the eyes of an idealist the absolutness and purity of its honorary character and condition. In fact its emoluments per annum will just suffice to pay a twelve months subscription to the highly recommended "Diplomatic and Consular Review" (Cons Agt Hardegg's Report.)

The office is located in a parlor room of the Jerusalem Hotel which is situated in the German Colony north of the town. The property of the U.S. Government consists of a coat-of-arms, two flags, press-seal and three books, files of letters dating from 1869.

Officers. The records are in poor condition though from them the names of the successive incumbents are to be had. 1, Vice Consul Jacob Sollicoff, Armenian, holding office from circ. 1849, to 1854 2, Simon S. Murad, Armenian, 1854-1866, 3 Hermann Lowenthal, German, 1866-1869, 4 John P. Hay, American 1869-1871. 5, E. Hardegg, present incumbent, appointed Consular Agent for Jaffa Dec 7, 1871. He immigrated to Palestine in 1868 with the German Temple Society. Mr Hardegg is 56 years of age, married and is proprietor of the leading hotel in Jaffa. He is well educated in languages and the author of several religious books.

Consular dragoman Shukri Musa a Turkish subject Christian, is 26 years old, was appointed interpreter in January 1896. Musa is Jaffa agent for Thos Cook & Son, tourist contractors. 1st Dragoman Dr. Nicolas Shoraych, age 36, Turkish subject, Christian, appointed interpreter October 1882.

Mr Ibrahim Sighert, age 28, Turkish subject, Moslem, appointed Consular Guard Jan. 1883.

Ibrahim Semberg, age 34, Turkish subject, Moslem, appointed Consular Guard Jan. 1895.

Enclosed please find photographs of the Jerusalem Consulate, Consul 1st & 2nd Interpreter, Jaffa Consular Agent and 1st Interpreter. Each photograph is described in its reverse side.

I am Sir

Yours obedient Servant

E. S. W.

U. S. Consulate, Jerusalem
August 7, 1896.

Honble W. W. Rockhill
Assist. Secy. of State

Washington

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith the Annual Return of Aggregate of Fees for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896. for this Consulate and its Jaffa Agency.

I am Sir

Your obedient Servant
E. S. W.

Enclosure: Form No 115 as above

No 67

U. S. Consulate
Jerusalem, August 10th 1896.

Honble W. W. Rockhill
Assist. Secy. of State

Washington, D. C.

Sir

It is my duty to inform you of the death of Mrs Rebecca Chapman - American citizen - who died in Jerusalem, June 16, 1895. The delay in reporting this death to the Department is due to the fact that we were not advised of it until some months later. The death of her husband - Harris Chapman - was reported to the Department in Despatch No 39 of May 30, 1895. In that despatch it was noted that a will was left and executors appointed. It has since happened that in New York where the property to be divided is situated another will than the one left here was admitted to probate. According to this will probated in Syracuse, New York by Attorney L. D. Solomon of Syracuse, the widow of Harris Chapman, to wit, Rebecca Chapman, whose decease is herein reported, was made a beneficiary to the extent of Twelve Hundred Dollars $1200.00

As Rebecca Chapman died intestate this amount ($1200) will go to the next of kin. There are no relatives living here.